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CITY OF MEDICINE

CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

**DATE:** April 9, 2015

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Mark D. Ahrendsen, Director of Transportation  
**Subject:** Municipal Agreement between the City and North Carolina Department of Transportation for the USDOT SHRP-2 C16 Grant - the Evaluation of the Impacts of Smart Growth on Travel Demand

### **Executive Summary**

The Transportation Department is recommending that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the attached municipal agreement between the City and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the implementation of USDOT SHRP-2 C16 grant. The City of Durham, on behalf of the Durham-Chapel-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, was awarded a grant for \$50,000 for the evaluation of the impacts of smart growth on travel. The grant is pass-through to the City through NCDOT. The proposed municipal agreement will allow the City to be reimbursed by NCDOT.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a Municipal Agreement between the City of Durham and NCDOT for the disbursement of the grant funds to the City.

### **Background**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHCMPO) is a recipient of a USDOT grant for \$50,000 for the evaluation of the impacts of smart growth on travel demand. The DCHCMPO will work with our regional stakeholders to implement a tool to conduct scenario planning of smart growth policies and determine their impact on travel demand, evaluate regional scenarios based on changes in built environment and transportation supply, and evaluate a series of performance measures resulting from smart growth such as community impacts, environmental and energy impacts, travel impacts, financial and economic and location impacts.

The Municipal Agreement will allow NCDOT to disburse the grant funds to the City of Durham for the implementation of the USDOT SHRP-2 C16 project.

**Issues/Analysis**

The City has accepted the USDOT SHRP-2 C16 grant by adopting a grant project ordinance (GPO). The work associated with the smart growth evaluation project will be undertaken through consulting services. In order for the grant funds to be disbursed by NCDOT, the City must execute the attached municipal agreement.

**Alternatives**

- Authorizing the City Manager to execute the attached Municipal Agreement with NCDOT will allow the City to receive the USDOT grant funds for the smart growth evaluation project. NCDOT will make the grant funds, \$50,000 available to the City to carry out the project.
- Not authorizing the City Manager to execute the Municipal Agreement. The DCHCMPO will not undertake the project. Grant funding will be forfeited.

**Financial Impact**

The grant award to the MPO is \$50,000. This grant does not require any local matching funds. The proposed project will not require additional funds from the City.

**SDBE Information**

Not applicable.

**Attachments**

- Municipal Agreement between the City and North Carolina Department of Transportation for the USDOT SHRP-2 C16 Grant - the Evaluation of the Impacts of Smart Growth on Travel Demand.